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appeared in its English dress. These works have now been issued in Norwegian and Swedish respectively, and also in French and English, the French editions coming first, as the books were primarily intended for the Paris Exposition of 1900.

The Norwegian handbook is regarded as the fullest and most authoritative source of information with regard to all aspects of that land and nation; and the Swedish handbook is fully as serviceable for Sweden. It is larger than the other book, and more abundantly illustrated with maps and pictures. Few Governments have done so much as Norway and Sweden have done in these handbooks to diffuse a correct idea of their countries and peoples. The geography and geology of Sweden are treated at length, and the large number of maps give sociological and a large variety of other information.

Le Tibet. Le Pays et les Habitants. By F. Grenard. Avec une Carte en couleur hors texte. iii and 387 pp. Armand Colin, Paris, 1904. (Price, fr. 5.)

This volume has been published at the moment when particular attention has been drawn to Tibet by the British invasion of that country. The book is partly a condensation of the large and costly work in three volumes which the author published in 1897–98 (" Mission scientifique dans la Haute Asie "). Mr. Grenard was the companion and collaborator of the late Dutreuil de Rhins in his Asian itineraries, and two-thirds of the present book is given to a graphic narrative of the Tibetan journeys of that great explorer, who met a tragic death among the turbulent populace of eastern Tibet. The second part deals in a very adequate and interesting manner with the Tibetans and their country—their physical and intellectual condition, history, industries, commerce, religion, and government. No traveller has studied more closely than Grenard the subjects of the Lhassa Government; and this volume, which is not only authoritative, but also convenient to handle, cheap in price and well printed, is a welcome addition to our sources of information.

Documents scientifiques de la Mission Saharienne. Mission Foureau-Lamy d'Alger au Congo par le Tchad. Par F. Foureau, Chef de la Mission. Publication de la Société de Géographie. 4to. Paris, 1903. Premier fascicule. pp. 162.

The *Mission Foureau* left southern Algeria, October 23, 1898, and reached France, on its return, September 1, 1900, having in the meantime crossed Africa to the Congo by way of Lake Chad. The Société de Géographie of Paris has undertaken the publication of the scientific results obtained by the expedition, and the first volume of the *Documents scientifiques* of the *Mission Saharienne* concerns the astronomical and meteorological observations. To speak in detail of the latter would occupy more space than can be given to this notice; but it may be stated that the meteorological work done was most careful, and is of great value. Regular observations were made throughout the whole journey three times daily; while self-recording instruments gave records whenever halts were made, and sometimes even during the march. Full notes were also kept of the state of the sky, the direction and velocity of the wind, fogs, dew, thunderstorms, etc. The districts traversed, which were all most interesting climatically, may be classified in four zones, as follows: I, The typical Sahara and Aïr, from Lat. 32° N. to 20° N.; II, From Lat. 20° N. to about 15° N., the district of Aïr; III, Sudan, Chad and Bas-Chari, between Lats. 15° and 12° N.; IV, The subequatorial and equatorial region, from Lat. 12° N. to the Equator. For many reasons these latitudes of northern Africa are perhaps as important from a meteorological point of view as any in the world; hence the great value that attaches to the observations contained in the present volume.

Attention can be directed to a few only of the more important facts noted in the pages before us. The thermometer fell below freezing twenty-five times during the months of December, 1898, and January, 1899, at altitudes of 960 to 1,445 metres above sea-level. The minimum reading was 13.6° on January 3, at 1,144 metres. The maximum temperature recorded was 118.9°, on March 9, 1900, at Koussri. Mention is made of the fact that the high temperatures noted in Aïr (109.5 to 111° maximum in the shade) were not at all insupportable when one sat still. Haze, due to dust, was frequently observed, being brought by winds of different directions, and sometimes occurring during calms. These dust-fogs were noted with winds from southeast or southwest in Algeria, and from northeast in Aïr, and around Lake Chad. During the whole journey winds between north and east were most frequent. In the Sudan region winds between north and east dominated; while in the Saharan zone there was an equal prevalence of winds between north and east and between south and east. The northern limit of the northeast trade was found at about Lat. 16° 17′ N. (October 20), and the southern limit at about Lat. 12° 5′ N. (March 6). South of latitude 12° a zone of variable winds, chiefly from the south and southeast, was met with. These observations show that the southeast trade extends well to the north of the ordinary zone of the equatorial belt of calms. A hot wind, known by the Arabian name of *chihili*, was found to have very unpleasant effects upon human beings, drying the throat, and causing an intense thirst and extreme irritability. Many desert whirlwinds were carefully observed in the Aïr region, and are well described (pp. 82–83), but it is rather surprising to find that the whirls were always clockwise. Observations made by the present reviewer on the deserts of Peru failed to show any rule in the matter of the direction of whirling. "Tornadoes"—*i. e.*, dry thunderstorms—with wind and without rain, were observed several times. The thunderstorms of the Aïr region showed the characteristic tropical regularity of occurrence, "toujours vers 3 heures, et jamais après 5 heures de soir." Dew was noted fourteen times, and hail once, on July 17, at Aoudéras (Aïr).

As to rainfall, the observations indicate that the tropical rains seldom reach the Aïr district, and then are only scattering, irregular, and uncertain showers, although these very showers may cause marked rises in the streams. Nevertheless, thunderstorm rains are much commoner here than in the northern Sahara, the vegetation is denser, and arborescent vegetation is represented by more varieties. Pages 98–157 are taken up with tables of meteorological data, and there are also reproductions of several thermograph and hygrograph curves, illustrating (1) certain days with high temperatures; (2) days with thunderstorms; and (3) days with abnormally high nocturnal humidity. It is to be noted that the selection of type curves of this kind, showing *unusual* conditions, seems to us a distinct gain over the usual practice of reproducing only *normal* curves for a month or a year. The discussion of climatology is altogether too much concerned with the averages, and does not give nearly enough attention to the extreme or abnormal values of the various weather elements, nor to the general weather controls under which these extreme or abnormal values occur. Those who are interested in African climatology will need to make a careful study of this volume of the *Mission Saharienne*. R. DEC. W.

Researches on the Past and Present History of the Earth's Atmosphere, including the Latest Discoveries and their Practical Applications. By Dr. Thomas Lamb Phipson. 8vo. London, 1901. Pp. xii, 194.

In the case of the volume before us the title is much too ambitious for the book. We have here a rather rambling, pleasantly-written, and fairly instructive series of chapters on the earth's